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A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

## **Press Release**

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## Pennsylvania's Red Meat Production Up 8 Percent in December

HARRISBURG — Commercial red meat production in the state during December 2002 totaled 110.9 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 8 percent from December 2001, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Cattle slaughter, at 85,800 head, was up 15 percent from last year. Beef production, at 108.7 million pounds live weight, was 14 percent more than December 2001. Average live weight per head was 1,266 pounds, a decrease of 13 pounds from last year.

Calf slaughter, at 18,100 head, was up 37 percent from a year ago. Veal production, at 5.9 million pounds live weight, was 26 percent more than a year ago. Average live weight per head decreased 28 pounds to 328 pounds.

Hog slaughter, at 258,800 head, was up 3 percent from last year. Pork production was 64.6 million pounds live weight, up 1 percent from December 2001. Average live weight decreased 4 pounds per head to 250 pounds.

Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 7,200 head, was up 38 percent from December of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 775,000 pounds live weight, up 38 percent. The average live weight was unchanged at 107 pounds.

**Nationally,** commercial red meat production for December totaled 3.86 billion pounds, dressed weight basis, up 1 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced last December.

Beef production, dressed weight basis, at 2.11 billion pounds, was slightly below a year ago. Veal production, at 18.0 million pounds, was up 15 percent from December of last year.

Pork production totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Lamb and mutton production, at 18.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous year.

Annual red meat production was 47.2 billion pounds, 3 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was up 1 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.